Lucky for Him.

The Rev. Dr. HEMAN LINCOLN, the learned Baptist theological professor and politician, explains, or tries to explain, that he didn't mean what he was thought to mean when he told Mr. BLAINE and his hosts, the Boston Congregational Club, on Forefathers' Day, that "the city of COLLINS and O'BRIEN is not quite the city of WINTHROP and the Pilgrims." The inference seemed plain, but it is due Dr. LINCOLN to say that he is averse to being considered a disciple of Dr. R. R. R. BURCHARD. Moreover, he is a voluminous volunteer contributor to our valued contemporary, the Boston Journal, and his communications show in him a commendably low opinion of Mugwumps. He is entitled to the benefit of this certificate of good sense.

It may be well, however, for the purpose of reminding him to be cautious in his ex-cursions from theology into Boston politics, that it is mighty lucky for him that Boston and Massachusetts are very different from what they were in the time of the elder WIN-THEOP. If they were the same now as then, the Rov. Dr. HEMAN LINCOLN would not be a professor in the Baptist Theological Seminary at Newton. There would be no Baptist theological seminary in Massachusetts, Congregationalism would be the established Church of that State, and Baptist preachers and teachers would have to keep their convictions to themselves or make for the Providence Plantations. It seems to us that the Rev. Dr. HEMAN LINcoun and everybody else in Boston who doesn't want to stand on the Savbrook Platform, and has still less desire to stand in the pillory, should be very glad that Boston is not the same sort of place it used to be two hundred and fifty years ago.

It is a curious thing, however, that many men instead of being grateful for the religious toleration which they enjoy, are angry because some creed which they dislike is not excluded from it. We do not believe that Dr. LINCOLN is one of that sort. All Burchardesque remarks indicate a suspended consciousness in the maker. It is as if he had gone to sleep in the time of the MATHERS and woke up in the Boston of COLLINS and O'BRIEN. His surprise at finding that "Papistry" flourishes and that ill-favored old women can walk past the frog pond without being ducked for witches is natural.

The Military Academy.

The report of the Board of Visitors to West Point for 1886, submitted to the War Department and to Congress last week, contains some good recommendations and some not so good. The proposition to confer upon each Senator by statute the right to nominate a cadet to the Military Academy, and upon the President the right to nominate four times as many cadets at large as now, is of very questionable expediency. The ground of the recommendation is that the existing scheme of appointment does not supply a sufficient number of graduates to fill the usual vacancies in the Second Lieutenancies. At the very last session of Congress, on official representation that the class graduated in 1886 would probably be too large for existing vacancles in the army, Congress passed a law allowing all surplus graduates o become additional Second Lieutenants, without immediate assignments to special companies, instead of being discharged, as the existing statute then required. This showed that there was no lack of graduates

for last summer. It will be said that that class was an exceptional one. So it was, but the exception ceptional one. So it was, but the exception resulted, not from any change in the present law of appointments, but from the high average character of the class. As Gen. MERRITT explained in a letter to the War Department, the unusual size of the class at graduation was due "to ability, energy, and continuous application on the part of its members." While it was still the second class, at the semi-annual examination not one member was turned back for deficiency. In other words, were the appointees to cadetships what they should be, the present system would turn out a larger proportion

of graduates, and probably quite enough.

There is another reason why so large an increase of the cadet classes as the Board proposes should not be made. This is the pediency of always having vacancies sufficient for the appointment each year of a few deserving non-commissioned officers to commissions. It is true that during the last dozen years there has been an average, we believe, of from twelve to fourteen appointments yearly to Second Lieutenancies from civil life. But the number of appointments from the army has averaged only five or six a year. Possibly the addition to the number of retired officers created under the system of retirement for age, established in 1882, and the large weeding out of unworthy officers which occurred several years ago, may have caused an unusual number of vacancies. But it is noticeable that the vacancies of the four years from 1882 to 1885, inclusive, in the cavalry, artillery, and infantry, averaged about thirteen a year fewer than during the four years from 1878 to 1881, inclusive. The casualties from battie will presumably grow fewer from the diminution in Indian hostilities. That there ought always to be held open some places for meritorious non-commissioned officers, who have been recommended for promotion and have creditably passed their examinations for commissions, cannot be doubted. This prospect will serve to attract a good class of young men to enlist, including some who have lacked only the influence for seeuring an appointment to the Military Academy or have passed the limit of age.

Congress will, therefore, do well to refrain from overcrowding West Point. The experience of the Naval Academy shows what may be done in that direction. It is sometimes argued that the best policy is that of edu cating at the Military Academy a much larger number of cadets than will be required for the army, in order that there may always be a supply of officers ready to be cailed from civil life on the outbreak of war. This, however, has become less necessary from the general raising of the standard of military education in the militia. In England the military education of officers of volunteers is considered of such importance that privileges of examination for grades in the army are granted, with certificates that they have passed. At all events, with proper attention to the militia in this country, Congress need not feel troubled about a supply of men competent

to be officers of volunteers.

of consideration, and the Military Academy Appropriation bill, which has just been reported to the House, makes unusually large provisions of this sort.

Lord Hartington's Predicament.

Since Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL'S resignation and Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's simultaneous offer of an olive branch to the Gladstonians, the cooperation of Lord Harrington is more than ever indispensable to the Tory Government. There are three courses open to him, but neither the Whig chief nor the Tory party seems quite certain as to which of the three he ought to take. Lord HARTINGTON may become the head of a coalition Ministry, or he may take office under Lord SALISBURY and lead the House of Commons, or he may persist in his attitude of benevolent neutrality, which, perhaps, is prompted by the hope of reuniting the Liberal factions after Mr. GLADSTONE shall have left public life. The majority of the Conservatives make

no secret of their wish that Lord HAR-TINGTON should continue to maintain a disinterested position, leaving to the Tories all the honors and emoluments of office, while obligingly providing the votes needed for that purpose. The desire to get some-thing for nothing may be natural enough, but Lord Salisbury is too long-headed to count on the fulfilment of a one-sided bargain. He knows that while Lord HARTING-Tox, who has a dukedom in prospect, might for an indefinite period be content to do the work of government without sharing its authority, yet his followers could not long be restrained from protesting that the laborer is worthy of his hire. If, on the other hand, Lord Salisbury could persuade two or three of the Liberal-Unionists to enter his Cabinet, their adherents might be satisfled, and it is probable that votes enough could be definitely gained to insure control of the present House of Commons for some time to come. Such a coalition would mean the complete absorption of the seceding Whigs in the Tory party, just as the Peelites who joined the Whigs in forming the Cabinet of Lord ABBRDEEN ceased from that hour to constitute a separate faction.

It cannot be said, however, that the ABER-DEEN coalition is an auspictous precedent, for the appropriation by the Peelites of most of the choice places in the Cabinet excited not a little heartburning among the Whige who were expected to furnish the votes in the House of Commons. But, although the Tories would be likely to regard with a like jealousy their Unionist partners, they would no doubt secept Lord HARTINGTON's leadership, so long as he remained a member of the lower House. But his father, the Duke of DEVONSHIRE, is nearly eighty years of age, and the day cannot be distant when the present leader of the Unionist-Liberals must take his seat among the Peers. Then It might turn out that the self-effacing spirit of Lord Salisbury would not lead him to put up with a subordinate position in the House, where he has been of late supreme. On the other hand, the coming Duke of DEV-ONSHIRE, if his old party ties had remained ostensibly unbroken, would have a fair chance of obtaining in the end the headship of the Liberals in the House of Lords. This may well seem the more tempting prospect, since Lord Harringron must see that not the Tories, but the Liberals, will in the long run be predominant.

Beecher's Christmas Sermon. If Mr. BEECHER were regarded as a man of really serious convictions, his last Sunday's sermon on the misconceptions of the charac ter of CHRIST would startle the whole relig-

Here is an extract which shows the tone adopted by the Brooklyn preacher in speak-ing of JESUS and the Virgin Mary:

"The mother and brother of Canast did not believe "The mother and brother of Cusus did not believe flim to be what he declared Himself to be. Between this Mant, celebrated in the magnificats for two thou-and years, and the real Mant there is a wide difference. That she had the slightest spiritual perceptions or in-eight there is no proof, and she and her other soms thought Javes was 'cracked.' They saw not what He did; they could not enter his sphere. When He was grand and great they said that He was crazy, and

That is the flippant and slangy way in which a professed believer in the evangelical theology and an ordained expounder of the Congregational faith speaks of the Lord of Christendom and of her whom it worships or venerates as His virgin mother. He describes JESUS as an extraordinary man and MARY as a very ordinary woman, and in language which might have come from BoB INGERSOLL, who treats the whole story of the divine origin of CHRIST as an amusing myth.

Mr. BEECHER does not attack the foundations of the Christian faith after the manner of the unbelieving scholars who have made the recorded circumstances of the birth and career of Justis a subject of skeptical inquiry, but seizes the opportunity of this season, so sacred in the eyes of Christians, to turn a few smart sentences at their expense. From a Christian pulpit he ridicules Christian the ology, and handles what it regards as its holiest mysteries with the carelessness of contempt. He is worse than the infidel, though he presumes to speak as an expounder and defender of the Gospel. He does not even think it worth his while to give more than slap-dash conclusions as to the character of CHRIST and the holy family.

That might have been looked for in a lecture by Bon Ingersoll, but if Mr. Beechen were a reputable and consistent Christian minister, it would be very startling as coming from him. People would say at once that the man was about to give up preaching Christianity and go over to the ranks of the infidels, and would feel sure that if he did not so do his church or his denomination would promptly put him out. Even the doubts of some Congregationalist ministers as to the damnation of heathers who have and no opportunity of knowing of CHRIST have of late brought them under condemnation; but Mr. BEECHER can say what he shooses and talk as flippautly as he likes of the central doctrines of Christianity, and nobody

thinks of bringing him to task. That is because his utterances no longer receive serious consideration. He has be some simply a curiosity in the pulpit, and whether he pretends to believe or makes bold to doubt, everybody understands that he is only acting a part for the purpose of withfrawing attention from the wrock of his

A Geographical Protest.

Our enterprising contemporary the World innounces that it has secured the services of ex-Lieut. FREDERICK SCHWATKA to lead an exploring expedition into the heart of the Yellowstone Park. The expedition will not travel by the stage lines that convey ordinary tourists from the hotel at the Mummoth Hot Springs to the Lower and Upper Goyser basins, the Grand Caffon, the Lake, and other points of interest in the Park. These stages do not run in winter. The World's expedition will consist of Mr. SCHWATEA, an artlet, a photographer, several Crow Indians, The recommendations of the Burd of and a "scientist." The function of the last-Visitors in regard to the needs of repairs and named member of the party, we suppose, of new buildings at West Point are worthy | will be to investigate from time to time the

personal baggage of the expedition for alcohol, and to subject all baking powders to qualitative analysis before they are issued

to the Crow Indians.
With modesty and dignity in marked contrast with the wretched Jones's pompous proclamation on the departure of his expedition to Icy Bay, the World disclaims in advance any intention to rearrange the geography of the National Park:

"Lient Schwarza has considerately agreed not to re-discover and rename any rivers in honor of the editor of the World, so that we send forth the Expedition without

Nevertheless, in the interest of conservative geography, we are compelled to protest against our esteemed contemporary's choice of a leader for its expedition. Mr. PULITZER may have bound Mr. SCHWATKA by the strongest pledges that human ingenuity can device; he may have sworn him to fidelity by the most fearful onthe that the affidavit de partment of the World oan invent; he may even have employed the mystic and impressive rites of antiquity to fasten in his explorer's mind a moral sense of the obligation he is incurring, and yet Mr. PULITZER is not safe. He does not know Mr. SCHWATKA so well as he ought to know him.

On his part Mr. SCHWATKA may honestly intend at the present moment to keep his promise to Mr. PULITZER. He may now be sincere in his solemn professions of a willingness to reform. And yet-mark the words !when he is once away from the restraints of civilization and the controlling influence of the World's counting room, habit will prove too strong for his good resolutions. He may pass the Missouri River successfully. He may resist the temptation to rediscover the Yellowstone and name it after the gentleman whose relations to the expedition justly entitle him to such an honor. He may get to Cinnabar before he weakens. But just as sure as he reaches a region where there is nobody to watch him except an artist, a photographer, a scientist, and a few Crow Indians, his resolutions, his promises, his pledges, his oaths of fidelity, will melt like snowflakes in the boiling waters of an active geyser. The impulse will be uncontrollable, He will begin to explore the explored, to dis cover the already known, to name rivers and mountains and lakes that have figured for years on the maps of the country. He will lo it; he cannot help it.

For this reason we regard it as highly probable that in a short time, perhaps only five or six weeks hence, it will become our melancholy duty to demonstrate to the public that Pulitzer River was not first discovered by Mr. SCHWATEA; that it is not a stream inferior only to the Mississippi in importance among American rivers; that its noisy waters have been for years well known to tourists in the Yellowstone Park, and that its course is already delineated on all good maps, where it appears as Hell Roaring Creek. That is why we protest against the World's choice of an explorer. Our esteemed contemporary should have hired some other celebrated man.

The Mugwumps think that the removal of Appraiser Combs of Maryland is the ugliest blow they have yet received from that spasmodic shoulder hitter, the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND. The Evening Post says that it is "one of the worst offences yet charged against the Administration." This means the most truly Democratic and most directly contrary to the sense and spirit of Mr. CLEVELAND'S Mugwump utterances.

The Mugwumps, the Democrats, and Mr. CORBS himself, are all anxious to know why he was removed from office. He has asked and has falled to get an answer.

Was he removed because he was dishonest or incompetent, or simply because he was Republican?

If for the first reason, then Mr. Comms s entitled to know the charges and to defend himself. Otherwise a great injustice is done to him. If he has been removed because he is a Republican and if this reason is not made public, then the Mugwumps, poor souls, are humbugged, and it is better to be a Mugwump than a humbug.

Can't Col. DAN LAMONT clour un the i tainty of the COMBS case? So much would seem to be due to his former honored distinction in journalism.

There seems to be a good deal of anxiety n certain quarters to get Governor RILL inside of the White House as a guest of President CLEVELAND. Perhaps the President has invited him to dinner, and they are afraid the invitation may slip up and the Governor have to go hungry; or else the idea is that if the Governor goes to Washington and is entertained at the Executive Mansion, he will be more likely to use his influence toward setting up the delegation of New York in favor of Mr. CLEVELAND when the National Democratic Convention comes around again.

We dare say Governor Hill to a friend of Mr. CLEVELAND and wishes him well, as everybody else ought to do, especially when we consider what an unpleasant thing it is to suffer from rhoumatism in the knees and to have to walk about with canes. The intelligence would undoubtedly be very agreeable to the whole counry which should announce the entire recovery of the President from his painful affliction But as for the delegation of New York in the National Democratic Convention, that is a verdifferent matter, and it is by no means cortain that Governor Hill could give it to Mr. Clave.

There are some things that a man may possess for himself, and yet not be able to give them away to another.

So HENRY W. GRADY'S middle name WOODPEN, not WINCHESTER. It may not be so pretty as WINCHESTER, but it is his; and we wish him a Happy New Year.

Since the death of PETER Coopen, it seems

No. SAMUEL J. TILDER was another and a greater benefactor, only there has not yet bee ime to put his benefaction into substantial and effective shape.

A second attack of rheumatism shows that Mr. CLEVELAND was doubly wrong in his detormination not to permit Mrs. CLEVELAND to visit the Garfield fair, because he did not feel quite well enough to accompany her. He should have gone by all means. A little exercise such a one is apt to get at a fair. might have staved off this new attack of rhenmatism.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Boston French writer of the day, the statement that. bad as were the morals of Paristan women at the beginning of the present century, when the great convulsion of Ninety-three was yet ring its social effects, they were still worse only sixteen sears ago, at the close of the

We shall not contest the accuracy of M. UZANNE'S views, but it should not be forgot ten that they relate to only a very small mi-Il eral estimate that should set down at ten ou-and or twenty thousand the number of fashionable women who make a show in the society of Paris; and it is quite possible that they became as corrupt under the influence of Louis Napoleon and his court as their predeciseors had been when the greater Maron was First Consul. But, whatever may have been the state of morality or immorality among the fimited class that . Uzanne refers to, it must be remembered

that the great mass of the French people are

quite free from such corruption. The millione who make up the power and strength of that who make up the power and strength of that country are sober, ladustrious, honest, upright, faithful men and women, and their private lives are as much controlled by moral and re-ligious sentiments as those of any other peo-

ple in the world. Our esteemed Republican contemporary, the Utica Herald, communicates an interesting piece of news:

"Objector Houses will take the Indiana Senatorsh if he can get it. The Republicans say Harnison will go back of a deadlock will result." We hope, in the public interest, that Mr. Hot-

MAN will be the man. His long career of most useful and honorable service amply merits Among the general officers of the Union army who came from civil life. John A. Logan was one of the best. Perhaps he was the very best of all.

The Record's attempt to explain the great preponderance of odd, funny, exceptional, and even unique family names in Philadelphia is not successful. "Philadelphia," it says, "is an abiding place. People go to New York to trade, to gamble, to frolic, and live in hotels, lodgings, and apartment houses. They come to Philadelphia to stay. They make themselves more and more as the years go on." This is too flimsy to merit respectful attention. There is nothing in it, unless you assume that the people who want to frolio and trade and gamble are the people with commonplace family names, while the queerly named are as a rule the steady-goingfolks, who tprefer existence under such conditions as they find in Philadelphia. That supposition is preposterous. Even if it were true, the fact would be as asrestigation as the phenomenon to which we

The further we go into the subject of Phila delphia names the more we are impressed with it. Here is a supplementary list of Philadelphia names taken from the marriage and death notices in the Public Ledger of Doc. 25. Dec. 27, and Duc. 28:

We exhibit names only which are absolutely not to be found in either the New York or the Brooklyn Directory. It would take too much room to extend our list to names which, while apparently as thick as huckleberries in Philadelphia, occur but once in New York and Brooklyn-such names, for instance, as Bir-SALL, WENRICK, and hosts of others.

No agreement made in 1886 will be watched with greater interest in 1887 than that between President Lawis and the horse car men o

TWO OPERA COMPANIES IN ONE.

The National and American to Be Merged

The directors of the American and the National Opera Companies have taken steps to have the two companies merged in every detall. The subject was discussed at a meeting of the directors of the American Company on meeting of the directors of the National Company held at the National Conservatory yesterday in East Seventeenth street. Lawyer Frank R. Lawrence has been requested to represent the National directors and S. B. Eaton will continue to look after the interests of the American directors. The perfected scheme of amalgamation will be considered at a joint meeting of the directors at the Conservatory to morrow. Airs. Thurber smiled last hight at the reportath that either company was in floancial distress. She said that she had got so she rather expected the deliy report that the funds were low.

"The National Opera Company, which properly represents the American, is floancially sound in every particular," she said, "and not for one second should people think that it is to be a failure. The title has we have just determined to pay the orchestra on Monday and the chorus and ballet hot until Tuesday has been construed to mean that we are embarrased. This siep was taken in order to facilitate the bulness affairs of the company, and for no other reason."

Mrs. Thurber said that the chorus and ballet thought they should be paid the \$7.50 extra a week for board while the company was in Brooklyn, just as though they were on the road, and the directors had acquiesced without a murmur. None of the talked-of suits against the company has materialized. R. Lawrence has been requested to represent

The Lady was Looks Like Mrs. Cleveland. From the Cincinnatt Enquire

There is employed in the Patent Office a appointed from the State of Virginia. She is not only remarkable for her beauty, but for that type of beauty for which the wife of President Cleveland has become famous. Soon after Mrs. Cleveland's face became fanillar to Washingtonians the similarity in appear and looks of Mrs. Sawyer and the President's came a subject of remark to all those who knew or had seen Mrs. Sawyer. It is said that during the past week while out shopping Mrs. Rawyer has been pointed out in the storce and on the avenue as Mrs. Cleveland. It is a fact that upon Mrs. Cleveland's first visit to the Capitol with Mrs. Lamont a friend of Mrs. Sawyer,

toticing Mrs. Cleveland enter the reserve gallery in the

Gristman Club was formed for his purpose with Miss Christman Club was formed for his purpose with Miss Nellie Arthur as President, and with meny prominent people as mismbers are officers. The first dimter was a decided success, and others have been given in the suc-ceding varue. Miss Mills Vinas dauchier of the Post-ceding varue. Miss Mills Vinas dauchier of the Post-tion with the residence of the miss and the pro-tine relief by a previously them at a good dimner and afterward distributing to a sno canty. A very interesting collection of Chinese por-

n brought from Pekin by Mr. Chester Holcombe erly Secretary of the United States Legation there opened yesterday at Mesers. Horter Brothers' is the city, and was examined by an assemblars of amo leurs who had been invited for the occasion. The num art have been substantially exhausted in China, the big prices paid for them in this country and in Europe having transferred to the Western world the mass of such treasures of antiquity. In Mr. Holcombe's collection, however, some notable examples of the ge: 8 no ou ttai thi were found, and some of these were easerly purchased by the expert and critical gentlemen pere at. We are bound to dd. however, that there was notified among these to compare with some famous ob-jects to peach blow porceints which have before been brought to the public notice in this town. Mr. Hoseombe also exhibited some fine works in jade, and a pair of covered bowis in pluk topas excited artisal

THE TIMBY TOWER AND SHIELD.

ome Good Words for Mr. Timby's Revised System of Conet Befence. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 .- The records of the

Patent Office show that a caveat was filed in that office by Theodore Ruggles Timby, as long ago as Jan. 18, 1843, for a "metallic revolving revolved by engines within. A model of a shore enttery had been made by Timby in 1841, followed two years later by the model of an elaborate marine tower with guns mounted, and a pilot house and lookout on top of the turret. It is true that revolving circular gun platforms had been heard of long before. Thus, as early as 1807, Abraham Bloodgood proposed a floating revolving circular battery, in which a "rota-ry motion would bring all its cannon to bear successively, as fast as they could be loaded, on objects in any direction." An illustration of this device is presented in the "Transactions o the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts in the State of New York, 1807," and reproduced in a recent magazine article by Capt. Ericsson. Timby's device attracted more attention after the service accomplished by revolving gun turrets in the form employed for the monitors during the civil war, and unsuccessful efforts were then made to have it adouted for coast defence. The adverse criticisms upon it were that only one gun could be fired at a time, and, if one assailant was hit, the other hostile researce could meanwhile advance, while the advance, in turn, would call for a change of elevation of the necess, hard to secure with the constant revolution of the tower and the different attitudes of the several liers above the sea. It was surgested, however, that a part of these objections could be obvisited by having several towers, with different lines of fire.

Mr. Timby's new avisom for land defences.

that a part of these objections could be obvisted by having several towers, with different lines of fire.

Mr. Timby's new system for land defences includes a shield outside the tower, with a better arrangement of guns and turret movement and an automatic firing device. These make it, both for rapidity and accuracy of fire and for security to guns and garrison, superior to his system of twenty-four years ago, and still more to the one of forty-four years ago, and still more to the one of forty-four years ago. Of course the shield may be made thick enough to resist the projectiles of hostile vessels, the only question in this part of the problem being that of cost. A loaded gun is moved into position and fired, and in a few seconds another comes up to the firing point and is automatically fired, then another, and so on, while the process of loading is busing going or with the discharged guns, so as to be ready when they successively come around to the port hole. The engines for moving the turret and shield may be beneath the turret, and hydraulic power is brought into play for pivoting the guns. Mr. Timby's illustrations show firing apertures in the shields, and he maintains that "each gun aweeps the entire horizon:"

But one port hole is peeded in the shield for each tier of successive to be completed.

But one port hole is needed in the shield for each tier of guns in the turnet. The port holes in the turnet are covered by the shield save at the instant of fring, when the only exposed port is closed by its gun. It is thus immostible to throw a projectic into the turnet without jumps the contraction out is never the projectic into the turnet without is never the projectic into the turnet without is never the projectic into the further without its projectic into the further without its projectic into the further without the projectic into the further with the projectic into the further without the projectic into the further with the projectic into the further without the projectic into the further with the projectic into the projec

the only expused nort is closed by its gan. It is thus impossible to throw a projectile into the turret without is interesting the shield, which may be one foot or many feet thick.

Bome remarkable recommondations, all of a recent date, have been secured for Timby's inventions. Rear Admiral Ammen, writing hisy 25, 1885, says that the Timby system is, "compared to the two-gun turret, analogous to the Gailing gun compared to the ordinary small arm now in use by infantry." Rear Admiral worden, writing soon after oh June 8, says that "it bears about the same relation to the two-gun turret that the Gailing gun does to the Springfield rifle." Admiral Porter, writing June 18, says: "The Timby system of 1885, compared with the two-gun turret, is as the Gailing gun compared with the musket." But it must not be inferred that all the testimorists are confined to variations on this favorite comparison. Thus Admiral Porter writes this more specific commendation:

From observation and experience I can say that not more than one-shot is sixty takes effect at two miles range when fired it is a short battery in an engagement with a vessel moving. After a careful examination of the plan of subting and firing gun-in the Timby system of const declare of 1885, I am of the opinion that she effect upon an attacking vessel.

Gen. Sloceum says that the Timby system is a powerful slement of defence, "which cannot be neutralized as such by being niaced in opposition hands," thoughtfully adding that "any and all marine devices, be they ever so destructive, are at once neutralized as a defence if used by attacking forces." Col. J. N. Bonaparte adds that he "entirely concurs" in this statement of Gen. Sloceum, Admiral Luce says that with the most powerful first he "would not attempt to force a passage defended by such works as Mr. T. R. Timby proposes," and in a subsequent letter declares that the Timby system is incomparably the best:

It affords greater security to both suns and garrison, and usures greater rapidity and accuracy of fire t

every sun with rapicity and effect, at any point on the horizon within range.

Gen, Belkmap holds that "the Timby system of sighting and firing heavy guns at long range makes one gun do the execution of fifty as they are now handled." Admiral Worden is "satisfied of its superiority over any other plan." and Gen, Rosecrans concurs in this statement, Admiral Carter is "surprised it has not been adopted for the protection of our harbors," while Admiral Upshur hopes he may some day "see this admirable system in position to defend our harbors and seaboard cities."

A bill is now pending in Congress to experiment with this system, but whether it will ever be passed is a matter of great doubt.

WILLIAM STUART DIES SUDDENLY.

Well Rnown so a Theatre Manager and

Edmund O'Fiaherty, who, under the name of William Stuart, has been widely known to New Yorkers for a querter of a century as a theatre manager and litterateur, died of heart disease on Monday night in a private apart-120th street. He died at his deak while answer ng an invitation to dine last night with ex-Chief Justice Shea. His health had been fail ing for six months. He had been living at the hospital, which is not yet open, by the invita-tion of President Porter of the Charity Com-

oncient Mrs. Cleveland enter the reserve salery in the Senate Chamber, thought it was Brs. Sawyer, and in stinctively arose to ge around to speak to her. He not treed, however, before the visitors were seated, that they had entered the row of seats set asset for the families of the President and members of the Cabinet, when he at more recognised the fact that he hed minsten the President wife for his beautiful department secundance. Whenever Mrs. Fawyer walks through the corridors of the Interior Department building going to and from her death, she is invariantly pointed on by elevis in other divisions as the eady in the department who bears such aromaches because it is the security of the Duke of N-wanstle. When he was about 30 aromaches and the security of the Duke of N-wanstle. When he was about 30 around a secure of the position as the eady in the department who bears such aromaches the security of the Duke of N-wanstle. When he was about 30 around a moist the called the position as the eady in the department who bears such aromaches are such aromaches and the security of the Duke of N-wanstle. When he was about 30 around a moist the position as a the eady in the department who bears such aromaches are such aromaches and the security of the Duke of N-wanstle. When he was about 30 around a moist of the location in Faris, and a way to be a such as a such around the security of the Duke of N-wanstle of the position and the security of the Duke of N-wanstle of the position and the security of the position and the security was a such around the security of the Duke of N-wanstle of the position and the security of the Duke of N-wanstle of the position and the security was a secure of the interior and the security was a security security of the Duke of the position of the security of the Duke of the position and the security of the Duke of the position of the security of the Duke of the position of the security of the Duke of the position of the security of the position of the security of the position of the secur

Cod Wenther Coal Prices.

PHILADELPHIA. Dec. 28. - The Philadelphia and Reading Coul and Iron Company has tended a line and city circular of prices for December, advancing pea coal 15 capts per ten, sed buckwheat, 25 cents pe i to early per tan, and nursewheat, 20 c-up per ton, new prices for hard white sale coal, at Sciuvichi yeu with he \$2.25 for hum, and steamheat; \$2.75 for keep egg and en-shoult; \$2 for two and small stong to the sale of the stong to the sale of \$2.00 for the sale of

The most interesting article in the January number of the Person is President Angell's narrative of his own education. It is not long, but it is mospranda. ble, and we buy it down with regret that it is not a grea Prorisience Journal as one of the main factors of his intereducation Another article of great importance is Li-ut Zaimski's discussion of submarine usvigation, and Mr. Henry C. Lea's Letter to the People of Phila-delphia is also worthy of attention. Mr. Lea is the stiret and in stronspicuous adverse of that ide municipal government which proposes to dispense with politics in the administration of cities. The editor of the Forum is evidently not straid of innovating ideas.

WAS THERE A SECRET CONTRACT?

The Marlem Bridge Business Looks Very Queer on the Aurfrer. The Commissioners for the new Harlem bridge are threatened with more trouble, although they had already discovered that bridge building is no joke. A year ago they accepted plans for a stone bridge, which bad been sub-mitted by the Union Bridge Company, and it was alleged that they had entered into a contract with that company to build the bridge. When this allegation was publicly made and the Assembly questioned them regarding it. proposals for a stone and fron bridge. John McQuade was the lowest bidder for the mason work, The Union Bridge Company was the lowest bidder for the metal work. No contract was awarded. The Commissioners went into private negotiations with the metal men, and finally, without further advertising, let a con-tract to the Passale Rolling Mills Company to omplete the entire structure, mason work and all, for \$2.058,000. This sum is \$277,093 in excess of the lowest of the rejected bids.

"This entire bridge business has been botched from the beginning," and a civil en-

gineer to a Sun reporter yesterday. "I do not mean to say that there has been any intengineer to a Sun reporter yesterday. "I do not mean to say that there has been a my intentional fraud in it. But there has been a most lamentable want of knowledge of the business displayed throughout. The Commissioners knew no more about bridge building than little boys. The Union Bridge Company seemed to own the Commission from the outset. They prepared the plans for a stone tridge, and the Commissioners adopted them and then made a secret contract with the bridge company to build the structure at their own price—\$2.680, 000. When the existence of this contract became known, and the Legislature undertook to inquire into it, the Commissioners got scared and persuaded the Union Bridge Company to give it up. They agreed with the bridge company in the they might prepare plans for a composite structure of stone and iron, on which proposals would be invited. It was expected that the bridge company would get the job, but it didn't. How it came to lose it may make an interesting story some day. The Union Bridge Company is not merely euchred out of the job, but the Commissioners have appropriated their plans and employed a rival concern to do the work at a greatly increased cost. But the Union Bridge Company has now becum a suit which will bring the emitre dickering before the public and can hardly fail to result in damance argainst the city. No, they do not sue on their written contract to build a bridge, but for their services as engineers and architects in preparing the plans upon which the structure is being built. The papers, I am told, have already been served, and are now in the hands of the Corporation Counsel."

Counsel."

The Corporation Counsel was ignorant of any such papers. So was Lewis Cass Ledyard, counsel for the Bridge Commissioners.

Mr. J. Adriance Bush, attorney of the bridge company, declined to say at first whether a suit had been begun or not, but promised that if the reporter would call on him a week hence he would give him information.

"Is there an effort being made to settle this matter out of court?"

Not on our part, "roplied Mr. Bush. "I am only anxious to get into court, and am certain

only anxious to get into court, and am certain of winning my case."

"Bid the Union Bridge Company have a contract with the Bridge Commissioners to build the bridge?"

"Certainly they did, and here is a verified copy of it ishowing the document. It is signed, as you see, by all the members of the Union Bridge Company, with myself as withese, and by all the Bridge Commissioners, with Maicolm W. Niven, their Secretary, as witness. The date of execution is Jan. 21, 1886. The price of the work is \$2,680,000, and no more, or the actual cost of the work plus 10 per cent, the 10 per cent to cover the cost of the drawings, superintendence, and the company executed an indemnity or guarantee bond in the sum of \$500,000 and gave it to the Commissioners. This is a verified

or guarantee bond in the sum of \$500 000 and gave it to the Commissioners. This is a verified cove of that bond "horoducing it!

"Do you sue on that contract?"

I have not said that we are suing. But I do not mind teiling you that I am now preparing the papers, and that they will be served early next week, or immediately after New Year's. But it would not be proper for me to say now what the suit will be for."

Just here the following extract from the reply made by the Bridge Commissioners to the State Assembly last February will be interesting reading:

wind agrees a fug. source a Sun reporter learned that the foundation of the bridge company's intended suit will be a claim for architectural and engineering services in devising and drawing the plans upon which the bridge is now be-

CONTRACTOR DUFFY ORDERED OUT.

The Fire Commissioners Take Possession of Their New Building in Strip-seventh Street The new fire hall in East Sixty-seventh street has been practically completed for some time, but there is still about \$1,000 worth of plumbing, painting, \$c_100 done. At the rate James Duffy, the contractor, was doing these finishing touches, the Fire Commis thought the building would not be entirely completed this century, so they finally resolved to avail themselves of a heroic remedy they had att ready. The contract or a nerote remedy they had all ready. The contract, which called for the completion of the building by the flat of June, gave them the power, if the work was "unnecessarily delayed," as well as not properly done, to take it out of Duffy's hands and complete it themselves at his expense.

necessarily delayed, as well as not properly once, take it out of Duffy's hands and complete it themselves at his expense.

The Commissioners, accordingly, served a netice on Duffy on Friday that they were going to take advantage of this classe in the contract, and that he must skip and let them fluish his job for hom. Duffy at first showed fight and barred up the building, so that Capt. Show, who was superintending the removal of the department's belongings, had to see energetic means to get in a load of institute which arrived just efter Duffy received to hold the fort. When, however, one of the Fire Commissioners appeared on the scene accompanied by the department's counsel. Buffy weakened on! surrendered the building. He has not been beard from since he retired from the field, which looks as it he didn't intend to go to law about it. He apparently wouldn't stand much chance of getting even if he didn't intend to go to law about it. He apparently wouldn't stand much chance of getting even if he didn't view of his being airendy six months behind the time for the complete of the building.

The confidency of the building.

The complete of the building.

The complete of the building of the complete of the his hold the binne for the delive on the plumber above he had the binne for the delive on the plumber above he had to commissioners age, after a while, and voluntarities, the Commissioners are going to occupy the prew five half commissioners as it has not they are to finish it themselves, the Commissioners are going to occupy the prew five half commissioners will open for humaness at the new stand on Monday. By that time the records and furniture of the Building Hursail, the Fire Marchia, and other folices of the department will be moved by the Skyty-seventh street, and only the telegraph superstite will be moved as soon as the economistic arrays. The swill also be moved as soon as the

TO COOK CANVASBACKS

The Apodidacite Bearing of a High Expert. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Canvasshould be cooked in a tin kitchen befor a wood are from fitteen to twenty minutes, according to the size. A pair of eight-pound ducks, which are rarge area in territ, would probably require twenty minutes. They want no dressing, not even pepper or sait. Good ducks a ways make their own gravy. They get their flavor from the food they feed upon, and any attempt to improve upon that flavor by any kind of dressing is an insult to the whole canvasback family. The redheads are intimate friends of the canvasbacks.

They feed upon the same food—wild celery—and should be treated in the same manner, and it takes an old dueler with a good paiste to tell the difference between a canvastack and a redhead when both are prope

I should as soon think of dressing terrapine with Ontone se canvashacks with july and wine.

GERRAFTOWN, Dec. 27. AN OLD DUCKEL

Mr. Mingerly's Gonerosity. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 28.—Mr. Singerly, owner of the Temple Theatre, which was burned yesterday,

had a large force at work this morning removing the de bris that covered the bodies of the two firemen who were buried beneath the falling walls. After the removal of quantities of brick, fron girders, and heavy timbers, the body of Robert Johnson was found and taken away by an undertaker. The body of William Gibson was no an andertaker. The body of William Gibson was not found till afternoon. Johnson was a married man, but had not lived with his wife for several years. Oil-you have a wife and two children. Mr. Start years. Oil-you have a wife and two children. Mr. Start is save Fire Commissioner Revinity his check for \$250 to leave 1 to leave to Mrs. Gibson. In addition he requested Mr. Methuity to inform Mrs. Gibson. In addition he requested Mr. Methuity to inform Mrs. Gibson that whe would receive \$5 per mount during her lifetime. This would receive \$6 per mount during her lifetime. This mounts will be paid to the widow through the Fire Denotes will be paid to the widow through the Fire Denotes will be paid to the widow through the Fire Denotes will be paid for the widow through the Fire Denotes to cover he had been supported by the paid of the widow through the Fire Denotes to cover the high Mrs. Both men belonged to the Firemore's Reside Franch, and the family of each will receive \$700 from this Bodtos.

Anthing Like It.

There is no such other compendation of news, or mirror decutemporary history as lak waster as a bi e year. Sudden changes of temperature produce coughs, colds, ore thronte and lang disorders, where hir Jayne's Ex-ectorant can be rened on to cure -44c.

TAMED WHINKEY.

A Chemist Comes to the Ald of the Probible

A Chemist Comes to the Als of the Prehiby stenders With a New Creation.

From the Frainty Fost.

For several years a New York chemist has been experimenting with a view to depriving alcoholic liquors of their intoxicating principie. According to this rentieman, the intoxicating principie to this rentieman, the intoxicating principle is the ether, or combinations of ether, which remain in alcohol seven after the fusel oil has been carefully extracted ether, in combination with certain gums that give whiskey and brandy their characteristic odors and some of their qualities, has never been eliminated heretofore without wholly destroying the illuor as, a medicinal or exhibitant process of their qualities, has never been eliminated because the process by which the gums held in solution are eliminated is a secret one for which the linear the gums held in solution are eliminated is a secret one for which the linear eliminates and the process come into general use. Now of the treaties whiskey has been official for the content of the treaties whiskey has been official for the content of the treaties whiskey has been official for the content of the treaties whiskey and the orthogonal to the content of the treaties which the content of the treaties of the content of the treaties of the content of the treaties of the content of the co From the Evening Post.

worth five cents a gallon after destherization, whatever value it might have as a temperance drink, and one prominent expert in liquors declared to the inventor that no liquor deales in the city would dream of placing the stuff before his patrons, first, because the patrons wanted to get drunk, and secondly, because the liquor dealer wanted them to do so. No more indignant assembly could be imagined than the social circle at my of our grog shops attempting a New Year's celebration on this tamed whiskey. A prominent whiskey taster who was asked for his professional opinion upon the merits of the stuff as a drink, said that it had no merits; it had lost its bite, and any whiskey drinker before whom a bottle of such stuff was pinced would be justified in throwing the bottle at the bartender. Altogether the prospects of introducing tamed whiskey as an article of commerce are not brilliant, and the inventor confesses that no capitalists have appeared ready to manufacture the article upon a large scale. The process is chean, and would not appreciably increase the cost of alcoholic liquors; the elimination of the ethers in whiskey would amount to about five per cent. Of the alcohol contained therein.

-A copy of Caxton's "Game and Play of the Cheese," lacking two leaves, has just been sold in London for £845.

-A Boston street car conductor says that f all the passengers he carries Chinamen give him the least trouble. "They got the car quick," says he, "keep their mouths shut, never raise a row, know what the fare is, and have the change to a cent when I ask for it." -Franklin R. Goodhart, well known in Franklin Is. Goodman, was in a saloon the other evening in a very nervous condition, some of his friends thinking to have fan with him. dressed up as cowboys and rushed into fan with him, dressed up as cowboys and rushed into the saluon yelling and brandishing pistols and knives. the saloon yelling and brandishing pistole and knives. This was quite enough to shake Goodhari's shattered nerves. He fied in terror to his home, where he has

-Mr. Bernard Quaritch, the London book-29, 1459. It is the second took printed with a date, and, according to Mr. Quaritch, "the grandest work even produced by typography." The Mazarine Bible is com-paratively a common book by the side of it. The price

seked for this literary treasure, which comprises only 26 leaves, is 5,000 suiness, or \$16,350 -William Fulton, a wealthy farmer of Independence, O., who is suing for divorce from his see and wife, Rebecca, testified the other day that, being mable to keep any papers or other valuables in the ouse without his wife getting them, he made a package of them and put it in the manger of his big bull were pretty safe there," said Mr Fulton, "because if wasn't safe for any one on the farm except myself to see

pear the animal. He was a very handy bull." -Senator John Sherman is reported as Teeling rather hurt about that story of his laying down acce up to Senator Howen's three pair in a poker game. "I have never posed before the country as a poker player," he issaid to have said, "and my standing with my constituents will not be affected by my lack of axis with cards. Still, I wish to say that I understand pokes sufficiently to know that there can be no three paint held, and I don't think Senator Bowen or any other Senator would try anything of the kind on me."

-There is a sexton in West Springfield. Mass, who deserves a notice because he knows the value of ventilation and how to secure it. The other evenion whom the prayer meeting room was well filled and the air became bad, he waited for a pane in the services and then said if the congregation would all arise for a few moments he would ventilate the roo r a few moments he would ventilate the room. They and good air in, and then the congregation sat down seeling better and the services went on briskly.

-The remarks of the Judge in the Goodell waree case in Providence, when he intlinated that the women present might better go out than stay and her the unsavory testimony, reminds the Boston Port of another Judge in very much such a case. Noticing the that the te timony was likely to be of a character and for their ears, and said he hoped all decent womes would leave the room. After a short interval, during which not one of them stirred, the magistrate rose and said, address my the court orier: "Mr. T---, turn all the

-The Bev. E. C. Johnson of Trinity Church Bristol, Conn., was walking with dignified stride down the street, on a recent day, when he came upon a slip pery snot and narrowly escaped a fall. As he was paw pery anot and marrowly ascaped a tail. As he was passing the air to keep on his feet, a bar railroad man came along and remarked, with a gran: "Guess 'nother driah will jast 'hout fatch you." Mr. Johnson straightened ag and inquired with severe dignity, "What's that, sir ?" har drink'il 'bout fetch you," replied the syn thizing railroad man. And he walked on, leaving the astonished clargyman staring after him.

-Arthur E. Saunders and Alfred W. Granger of Westfield, Mass, were recently arrested for violating the Lord's day by fishing for pickerel through the treat Southwick ponds on a sunday. At the trial they produced several witnesses to prove that their catching of a fish was a work of charity, and was now done until attempts had been made to buy one to satisfy the craving of a sick woman. One of Southwick's doctors testified that he had ordered a fish for young Baumders's mother, who was recovering

tors testified that he had ordered a fish for young Saumders's mother, who was recovering from a serious illness. The young men were discharged.

—Apropos of the probable hanging of
lirs. Druce for the murder of her-husband, it is said
thare have been but four hangings of women in this
state. Margaret Houghtaling alias Pergy Dinsmora,
was hanged at Hudson Got. 17, 1817, six weeks after her
indictment for the murder of her child, and a few years
guilty of the murder and not Pergy. Mrs. Van Valkenburg was hanged for poisoning her husband at Johnstown Jan. 24, 1846. Mrs. Runkle of Uties was hanged
at Whitesboro in 1849. Ann Hong, for killing her husband by poison, was hanged &ly 7, 1802.

—The other day C. E. Lowe and Workmen

-The other day C. E. Lowe and Workmen Pattereon and Stark went to San Antone, Cal., to put up a fence on a piece of land that Lowe had preempted ap a fence on a piece of tand that Lowe had preempted last May, but which was claimed by Mrs. A. E. Walker. When they began work Mrs. Walker appeared with a double-barrelled shotum and ordered them to desist, which they refused to do, she then told them showould be the shot of the showould be the shown that the showould be the showould be the showould be the shown the shoot if they did not stop. Lowe cried "Let her se," and Mrs. Walker shot both barrels at them. The sheet red and et mak Lowe's face around the eyes and forehead and Patterson's nose It did not burt them
very seriously. Hrs. Walter went to voleded and some
herself up. The young men went for medical treatment